

Violation of Flag Code by Navy

4440. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Navy left its White Ensign on every lamp post along the Marine Drive even four days after the conclusion of the International Fleet-Review thus violating the Flag Code;

(b) if so, the reasons for such violation; and

(c) the steps taken by Government against the erred officials?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The White Ensign was displayed along the Marine Drive for four days to coincide with the period that the foreign visitors were in Mumbai in connection with the International Fleet Review. The Flag Code does not apply to the White Ensign.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Court of inquiry into Tehelka Scam

4441. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level Court of Inquiry headed by a Lt. General has commenced its proceeding regarding Tchelka team meeting with defence officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Court of Inquiry has submitted its report and if so, the details thereof and if not, by when it would be submitted;

(d) how many officials have been suspended and/or proceeded against recently after Tchelka turmoil; and

(e) whether this issue is not leaving any impact on our Jawans?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Court of Inquiry consists of a Lieutenant General as Presiding Officer and two Major Generals as Members with one Lieutenant Colonel in attendance.

(c) No, sir.

(d) One Army Officer and three Civilian Officers have been placed under suspension.

(c) Any act of omission and commission in the Army is thoroughly investigated and action taken as per rules and regulations governing Army.

Anomalies in MES Civil Pensions

4442. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the retired MES civil pensioners from Yol in Himachal Pradesh in regards to anomalies in their pension grants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Tank Deal with Russia

4443. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated 16th February, 2001 captioned "\$600-M tank deal with Russia";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen the indigenous defence industry and carry out constant Research and Development and regular upgradation of fighting equipments in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the comprehensive proposals formulated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A contract has been signed on 15.2.2001 for the import of 124